

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The removal of Beria is but the first of many. It is amazing that Malenkov was able to purge Beria in view of the fact that Beria had years in which to place his followers in strategic positions. However, it is highly improbable that Soviet security forces will attempt to help Beria.
2. Beria's purge may foreshadow a vast and basic shift in Soviet policy which the West should be prepared to meet with friendship and encouragement.
3. The Soviet military will not side with Beria. Soviet military leaders have been so placed that men mutually antagonistic are face-to-face thus neutralizing each others' effectiveness and leaving Malenkov with a free hand.
4. The reaction in the Satellites will probably be to speed up "democratization and liberalization." Recent changes in Hungary indicate a "true democratization." Pressure against Jews in the Satellites will soon be relaxed.
5. Reports from Sofia state that shortly before the removal of Beria, Premier Chervenkov was so highly disturbed over the political situation that it was necessary to remind him to be cheerful at a recent reception.
6. The only Satellite not showing reaction is Albania; part of the Albanian psychology is to admit no change. Premier Hoxha cannot alter his course without dangerously exposing himself.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 2 -

7. The ouster of Beria took Yugoslav officials by surprise.

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